

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated January 11, 2006. Claims 1-49 were examined, and all were rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Scheuerlein et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0125629) or Sakui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,548).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to now recite a memory array having at least two planes of memory cells formed above a substrate, and also amended to now recite:

wherein each respective NAND string within a given memory block of a given memory plane is coupled to a respective global bit line that is not shared by other NAND strings within the given memory block of the given memory plane, and wherein some adjacent NAND strings within a memory block are coupled at opposite ends thereof to their respective global bit lines.

Support for such an amendment is provided at least by Figs. 17D, 17E and 18. No new matter is added. Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled, and claims 10-12 have been amended to now depend from claim 1. New dependent claims 50-55 have been added to further protect the invention.

Independent claim 18 and its dependent claims 19-33 have been canceled.

Independent claim 34 has been amended to now recite a memory array having at least two planes of memory cells formed above a substrate, and also amended to now recite:

said memory array comprising a first plurality of zias, each of said first plurality of zias respectively coupling a first end of a respective NAND string on each of two or more memory planes to a respective global bit line, and said memory array further comprising a second plurality of zias, each of said second plurality of zias respectively coupling a second end of a respective NAND string on each of two or more memory planes to an associated bias node.

Support for such an amendment is provided at least by Figs. 14, 17A, and 17B. Claims 35 and 41 have been canceled, and claims 42-44 have been amended to now depend from claim 34.

Summary

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-17, 34, 36-40 and 42-55 are now in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being

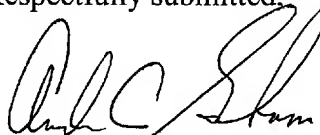
- ☐ deposited with the US Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail and addressed as shown above.
☐ facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office.

Andrew C. Graham

Date

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL: _____

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew C. Graham, Reg. No. 36,531
Attorney for Applicant(s)
(512) 338-6313 (direct)
(512) 338-6300 (main)
(512) 338-6301 (fax)